

Comment to FCC on Speech To Speech services

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For people with disabilities who use AAC (augmentative and alternative communication), communication performance can have a significant impact on the total life experience. AAC Institute is a not-for-profit charitable organization dedicated to the highest performance communication for people who use AAC. For this population, speech to speech (STS) can be an important tool. However, many who could benefit are simply not aware of STS.

We urge the FCC to provide reimbursement rates to STS vendors that are high enough to motivate them to educate all Americans with speech disabilities who would find STS useful. The FCC's obligation stems from section 225, which requires access to the general telephone network regardless of disability. Section 225 thus requires that information about such access be as readily available to this population, as information about that network is to the general public.

Thank you.

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** AAC assessments always consider all three language representation methods. **